recognizing their previous Group 'A' service in State services for the purpose of their empanelment as Jt. Secretary under Union Government much against provisions of Ministry of Personnel O.M. dated 15th September, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons for not observing the principles laid down in the said O.M.; and

(c) the reasons for not assigning with them earlier years of appointment while conferring IAS on them, as these officers had been appointed in grades equivalent to grades in which IAS officers (DRs) are appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) After their appointment to the Indian Administrative Service, the officers promoted from the State Civil Services are given weightage of their past service in assignment of year of allotment according to the formula provided in the Indian Administrative Service (Regulation of Seniority) Rules, 1987.

Select panel for Joint Secretaries

1733. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether para 3.3 of the revised guidelines regarding Procedure to be observed by Departmental Promotion Committees contained in O.M. No. 35034/7 (97-Estt.(D)] dated 8th February, 2002 is applicable for making select panels for appointment to the post of Joint Secretary under the Government of India;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the procedure adopted for empanelment of Joint Secretaries; and

(d) the steps taken to accord recognition to merit in making select list for the post of Joint Secretaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The instructions of 8.2.2002 relate to posts filled by promotion, whereas the posts of Joint Secretary in Government of India are filled by deputation under provisions of the Central Staffing Scheme.

(c) and (d) For empanelment of Joint Secretaries, the suitability of officers is finalized by the Civil Services Board for submission to the Appointments Committe of the Cabinet. The Civil Services Board is assisted by a Committee of Secretaries who adjudge the suitability of an officer based on the criteria of merit and competence after evaluating the officer's Confidential Report Dossier.

Fixing the accountability of the employees for higher prices in Kendriya Bhandar

1734. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the then Chairman, Kendriya Bhandar has asked Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) to fix the responsibility and acountability of the employees where the prices have been found higher in Kendriya Bhandar than the open market etc.;

(b) if so, whether the responsibility and accountability of the employees has been fixed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is under process.

Regular CVO for Kendriya Bhandar

1735. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Bhandar has no regular CVO for over a year;